

WARRING NAVALS REVIEW SECOND YEAR OF STRUGGLE

British Fleet Chief Agent in Germany's Undoing

Heroism of France and Millions of Russian Soldiers of No Avail if Kaiser Could Have Landed Troops at Will.

By LORD NORTHCLIFFE.

The New York Tribune honors me with the publicity of its rapidly growing circulation by asking me to say what I think about the part in the war now being played by the John Bull family. I accept with great appreciation for The Tribune and my newspapers, "The Times" (of London), "The Daily Mail" and others have said some very plain words on the subject.

Some of the Tribune editorials I thought unfair. Many of my own were considered so anti-British, anti-patriotic and the like that from one end of Great Britain to another people enjoyed the burning of my writings as heartily as did The Tribune reporter describe the burning of Barnum's Museum on July 14, 1865.

Writing on this 4th July, 1916, I do not think any person can find fault with what John Bull & Company have now done.

We must first of all remember that hardly any one in England or the United States believed that war was coming.

I made a series of statements when travelling in your country and in Canada in 1909 in which I particularly called attention to its certainty. In the cities I visited I was regarded as a warmonger.

England was almost as slow as the rest of the world to believe that Germany meant war. Our successive administrations had no excuse except that the vast German influence in our public life and press threw dust in our eyes. We were much too busy acquiring new territory and new businesses and storing up money to want to believe in war. Your people are in exactly the same condition as we were.

Americans in London tell me that, although you were the inventors of the aeroplane, you have practically an eyeless army and a blind navy. Judging from the amount of advertising in The Tribune and other newspapers, you are now enjoying a sort of commercial boom that up to 1914 we had got to regard as our normal state of affairs. In those days the annual golf championship ranked in our news columns as of greater importance than the annual review of our army, and it certainly aroused much more discussion. Whole pages were given over to stock markets. To use a common Londonism, "Everything in the garden was lovely."

On Four Days Notice.

When the war arrived it came with just four days' notice, and all the wise-agers and business folk, who had predicted that the world had outgrown such evil things as wholesale slaughter, were agast.

They speedily plucked up spirit again and said: "Not only on our side but on yours—that the thing would soon be over; a businesslike settlement would be made, and all the rest of it. We were now been at it for nearly two years, and so far as John Bull is concerned, after a tremendous amount of basking and belling, and bawling, he has come to the conclusion that the thing is over, and that he will let me add, a great deal more rapidly than you did when you started on your comparatively small scrap in 1812."

Though the war found us almost as unprepared on land as we are to-day, national instinct and annual regular newspaper agitations had provided us with an almost perfect fleet. The great blunder—the chief of all blunders, worse than her bloody struggle to get to Calais—was that John Bull would allow little Belgium to be trodden on.

In my own opinion, the principal agent in Germany's undoing is that fleet of ours, which, despite German commerce raiding, has kept commercially possible and above water German shipping as clear of the seas as if the Hamburg-American and the Norddeutscher Lloyd were non-existent.

Germany has never been the glorious heroism of France if Germany could have landed troops at almost any point on the French coast she chose. Of what value would the coast be, if it were not for the fact that at that time unorganized Russians if the Germans could have transported their armies by sea to Riga? I will not dilate upon the fact, which is obvious to the casual observer, that the German fleet has been over again by your experts, that without the British Fleet the long prepared German war machine might and probably would have proved invincible.

The First Blunder. The rest of our blunders were due to the realization of the fact that the war was not a voluntary one. There never was any real objection to compulsory military service except in the minds of the military service. As the war came, it came to a "showdown," as you say—are rarely proved to have any real knowledge of national will and purpose. Because you had riots in New York over the raising of Mr. Lincoln's statue, fifty-five years after the old-fashioned system by which rich men could purchase substitutes, our vote-hunters really persuaded themselves that the modern young man would not stand the raising of Mr. Lincoln's statue.

Our next blunder was in ordering the wrong kind of shell and the wrong kind of guns. For this the soldiers were to blame as much as the politicians. The very first battles proved that the machine-gun was vital. In those days, before the Censor sawed at the deal of the fighting, and they pointed out repeatedly that the man with the machine-gun magnifies himself by a hundred. It was known also that the Germans and Austrians had the outburst between 60,000 and 100,000 machine guns.

Our third blunder was the total neglect to use the services of the business men and inventors of the country and the Empire. British capital and Canadian brains have done wonderful things in the Dominion, yet for more than a year we did not begin to realize the instant necessity of rail transport for the army in the field.

It is quite easy to understand these deficiencies. Our wars have been little more like your Indian wars, and our wars have been little more like your Indian wars.

LEADER IN THE RUSSIAN DRIVE AND ONE OF HIS PRINCIPAL ANTAGONISTS.



General von Linsingen, the Kaiser's commander in Volhynia, seen looking through a periscope. His front of 200 miles, against the Russian blow fell early in the recent drive, has been forced back until now General von Linsingen is practically holding a chain of lakes and rivers in a flooded country. The general is a man of marked personality, being noted for his kindness and his tremendous energy. Three of his sons are in the army.

Teutons Have Failed, Says Sir Gilbert Parker

Author and Member of Parliament Points Out How Britain Spoiled Their Plans—Tells of English Industrial Transformation.

London, July 29.—The Right Honorable Sir Gilbert Parker, Bart., M.P., whose services to the British cause have been notable in the field of publicity in the United States, has made the following statement on the European war:

"Three months ago the task of making a statement on the war would have been far more difficult than it is to-day. Since then Great Britain and France have moved forward on their fronts, and with tremendous effect—but of that later. Also, during that time Russia has moved heavily upon the troops of the Central Empires, and in this southeastern corner of the Russian front, has driven in, league upon league, the Austrian troops, has captured sector upon sector, city upon city, in the regions where Austria was dominant, and has made prisoners of 300,000 men.

"Over in Asia Minor the field of conquest has been enlarged and developed. Erzerum and Erzingan have been captured and other centres of Turkish authority have been taken. The renowned von Hindenburg, up in the Riga district, has been driven back mile upon mile, and Russian prowess has proved itself beyond question. Russian general, like Brussloff and the Grand Duke Nicholas, have reestablished the Russian positions, weakened at the beginning of the war through lack of munitions.

"Looking back, one is forced to wonder how Germany was able to win the march of conquest. At the beginning of the war she should have been in Paris at the time she herself appointed, early in the autumn of 1914. She came very near it. What stopped her?

"She has left out of the hand the strategic plan which belongs by nature to the French army, the new French army from behind Paris, and the 'contemptible little British army.' All thanks to start.

"It is a remarkable thing that on the Western front the only gains of Germany were achieved in the first few weeks of the war. Those gains were of immense strategic value to her. They included the mining and industrial districts of France and nearly the whole of Belgium, from which she has steadily drawn practical support and advantage and supplies. The wonder is not that the Allies have done so well, but that, with all her preparations in her hands, she has done so well. The French army, the new French army from behind Paris, and the 'contemptible little British army.' All thanks to start.

"Apparently, at the beginning of the war everything was in their hands, everything except one—the British navy. If Germany could have mastered that as she mastered Belgium and a goodly portion of France, the color of the war would have been over; the French would have been a third rate power, and Germany would have been a first rate power. Russia would have been driven back into her steppes and plains, and more and more the German Empire, as we know it, would have become a thing of the past.

"What the British navy did was to sweep German merchant commerce from the seas, prevent Germany from trading with the rest of the world except by crooked methods, bottle up her fleet to uselessness, drive her South Atlantic fleet to the bottom of the sea, and throttle and choke Germany export to an extent that great cities like Hamburg have lost the hum of their activity, and, outside the Baltic Sea, there is no stir of German commerce, and a freshish enterprise like that of the Deutschland.

Foreign Commerce Gone.

"German foreign commerce cannot be rehabilitated by the activities of submarines. Since the battle of Jutland it can be safely and surely said that the seas are still controlled overwhelmingly by the British fleet. The German fleet came out and then fled to cover again under a stiff fight.

"But let us now take the field of battle on the Western front. For a



General Alexis Brussloff, the Czar's leader in the present great drive, photographed at his desk at headquarters on the Eastern front. He was little known even to Russians when he was appointed to command the army that was to avenge the munitionless retreat of last year. On his arrival, heralded at his new scene of duty few officers recognized him. He had been a principal instructor in Russia's military academy and had written authoritative works on strategy. He has said that his recent offensive started at all points on the long line at exactly the same hour.

Verdun's Advantage to the Allies.

A French military critic sees many advantages to the Entente in the great struggle about Verdun that Germany initiated. He sets them forth thus:

"The heroic defence of Verdun has been for the Allies one of the notable developments of the war. It has held German reserves there in such numbers as to put an end to the shifting of troops from front to front. It prevented the reinforcement of the Austrians, suffering from the loss of prisoners, with perhaps as many in casualties, to the armies under General Brussloff. It obliged the Germans to prolong during five months a vast daily expenditure of projectiles that was expected to continue only a few days, and has so drawn upon their reserves of munitions that in the Battle of the Somme they have been able to reply to the French and British guns in the proportion of only one shot for three.

"The Allies have caught up with the advantage of the Central Powers in preparation, and any further modifications of the respective positions of the contending forces, it is believed, must be a reconquest of invaded territory by the Allies."

lately bought up, against German intrigue, the great bulk of food exports of Holland.

"She has put on a 5 shilling income tax, which has been paid without protest by the mass of the British people. She has drawn upon her financial resources until she has loaned her allies and her overseas dominions £450,000,000, and she has taken as high as 80 per cent of the war profits of the great manufacturing firms.

"The organization of Great Britain is not chaotic and haphazard, but there never was a time when all the people of the country were so occupied in national things, when so many have given themselves up, without pay or reward, to doing national work. Her organization is proved thoroughly by the work of the Ministry of Munitions, which, under the indefatigable Mr. Lloyd George, has increased the three government munition factories before the war to 4,000 establishments, with 2,000,000 workers; has arranged canteens for 500,000 people and has erected twenty national workshops, with, in one case, a population of 50,000 people.

"As for manufacture—in a fortnight as many heavy shells can be made as were made in the first year of the war. Great Britain has shown with an equal skill for organization in a new and successful light."

"Anxiety Shifted from France"; Russia Confident of Victory

Worry Is Now Forced on Central Powers, Says Prominent French Deputy.

Paris, July 29.—"The second year of the war ends with anxiety shifting from the group of the Entente Powers to that of our adversaries, who are obliged to make a general combined offensive on every front," said Marquis de Chambrun, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, in summarizing the military situation for The Associated Press at the close of the second year of the struggle.

"While French, British and Russian preparations become more complete, a crisis of exhaustion is fast arising for the Austrians and Germans. Our adversaries thought it would be impossible for us to prepare, and certainly during the first year of the war there were difficulties that had to be broken through. But we desire to break the enemy created a great spirit of enthusiasm among the people of the countries of the anti-German group, which people, ardently taking up the work of providing their army with the necessary supplies, built up within a short time new military industrial enterprises many times increasing the former production.

"The end of the second year of the war was marked by the results of this patriotic upheaval among the Allies which found expression in a successful adoption of the offensive by their armies, now abundantly supplied with war material and powerful artillery. In complete unity with all the Allies, the Russian army a month and a half ago dealt a destructive blow from its left flank, and from that time has interrupted the continued one blow after another against the Austro-Hungarians. In the same way, our Caucasus troops are persisting in driving the Turks from supposedly impregnable heights in Asia Minor.

"Thus at the beginning of the third year of the war strategic conditions which have now become favorable for the Allies on all the fronts more than ever give ground for the conviction that complete victory will be gained over the enemy."

Allies' Aim to Rule World Now Clear, Says Germany

Foreign Office Asserts Second Year of War Has Demonstrated Foes' Purpose to Continue Economic Strife.

Berlin, July 29.—Reviewing the political events of the second year of the war the German Foreign Office has given to the Associated Press the following statement:

"Unlike the military situation, it is not easy to review briefly the developments in the confused paths of political events, but an attempt will be made in the following to trace the leading ideas connected with the political problems of the second year of the war.

"The world war was caused by Russia's aggressive policy, supported by France's policy of revenge. But it was rendered possible solely by the fact that England subordinated to her economic antagonism to Germany all her other interests.

"Whereas Germany's enemies regard it quite in order that they demand territorial acquisitions at the cost of others—like Russia, who wants Constantinople and Galicia; like France, who desires Alsace-Lorraine and the left bank of the Rhine, and like Italy, who seeks Austrian territory—they regard Germany even that she strive to develop herself economically in peaceable competition, and they pronounce this an unpardonable sin against the world's order of things.

Economic Masters.

"They are unwilling that Germany should become great and strong because the other powers want to be the economic masters of the world. Territorial and economic aggrandizement has united Germany's foes in a war of destruction against us.

"Germany must be destroyed. Germany shall nevermore raise her head economically nor militarily. In this way is the goal of our enemy more clearly enunciated during the second year of the war.

"It is quite clear that the talk of a struggle of democracy against militarism is only a catch word used by our enemies to create sentiment, and to cloak outwardly their real purpose of destruction. Assuredly there can be no talk of a struggle for the maintenance of democratic principles when one side sets out to destroy the enemy completely, including the civilian population.

"And is England really the land of democracy she pretends to be? Has not the entire development of England during the war shown that England is drawing further than ever away from democracy?

Is Not War Enough?

"It is not enough that the world must be shaken by a protracted bloody war. The world must not even after enjoy a settled peace if the will of the Entente Powers prevails, for the decision of the Economic Conference does not signify an economic peace, but a permanent economic warfare which never will permit the world to come to rest upon the basis of peaceful competition.

"This shows at the same time that the great words of the Entente Powers about fighting for the rights of smaller nations and international order are empty words, for when Germany's enemies seek to control neutral trade they simply ignore the rights of other countries and base not on the principle of right but upon pure might, and what they allegedly want to abolish.

"The second year of the war, therefore, shows that our enemies are preoccupied with one thing—namely, disturbers of the peace—Russia, through her unbridled passion for extending her borders; England, through being unconscionably for dominating along the economic world, and France, through her passion for revenge.

Favor Rule of Night.

"The American citizen knows what damage has been inflicted on his trade brought by the illegal blockade, through violations of the postal convention and other measures of England like that of blacklisting firms. In the eyes of his own people he has borne hitherto many humiliations with surprising patience and perhaps in silent admiration for foreign power.

"Neutral states, yielding to might, had to submit to illegal measures of the Entente Powers, contrary to their own interests. But it is not enough. With the throttling of neutral trade our enemies try to win political letters upon neutral countries. Portugal, as England's vassal, even permitted itself to be dragged into the war at the beginning of the year. Other states, like Holland, on the other hand, by energetic precautions against England's maneuvers, have been able to preserve their neutrality.

"One observes, therefore, in the second year of the war increasing violations of the rights of neutrals in the interests of England and her allies. These violations will also continue through the third year of the war, and even increase, unless all signs prove false.

"Germany proved in the past year, contrary to England's example, that in attaining her end she seeks so far as possible to avoid violating the just claims of neutrals. She even went far toward meeting the wishes of the United States in her conduct of submarine warfare, in spite of the fact that the enemy was trying to subdue Germany through an illegal war upon her peaceable population.

"Out of regard for the interests of neutrals, Germany relinquished, for the present, one of her most effective weapons against the enemy, although she was compelled to wage a life and death struggle.

"Building upon what she already has achieved Germany treats the threshold of the third year of the war with unshaken confidence. But the goal has not yet been reached, for the enemy has not yet come to see the impossibility of subjugating Germany."

Germans Boast That Navy Has Won in Battle Test

English Sea Power Baffled, Says Captain Persius, Who Predicts Brilliant German Victories on Ocean.

After Reviewing Maritime Fights of War.

Berlin, July 29.—Captain Persius, the naval critic of the "Berliner Tageblatt," has written the following review of naval operations during the second year of the war, from the German viewpoint.

"It seemed likely that the second year of the war would end without a sea fight of the first magnitude, but May 31 brought a gratifying proof that our great battleships were not built in vain and that our fleet, despite seeming inactivity, was quietly and assiduously preparing itself for a blow against the strongest sea power in the world. We still hear the question asked as to who was the real victor in the fight off Skagerrak. A comparison of the clear concise reports of the German Admiralty Staff with Admiral Jellicoe's long-winded reports, which contain only a few facts, leaves no doubt that the German official account gives a thoroughly truthful description of the battle. The English version, with its barrenness of facts, labors in vain to conceal its improbability.

"Whatever the final judgment is of the battle in detail, the loss of British prestige at sea and the pronounced success of our fleet remain indisputable if only the British losses in men and ships are considered. The waves of the North Sea swallowed 6,104 British seamen and 11,156 gross registered tons of shipping, while the German losses were 2,414 men and 60,720 tons. These figures were officially published on both the German and British sides.

German Opinion Firm.

"Numberless authorities, both hostile and neutral, have expressed opinions on the battle, but the German people will not permit themselves to be influenced by any foreign judgment. They understand alone how proud they may be of a navy whose quality and honor have stood the test of battle with the strongest sea power. They know that Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg rightly expressed the general sentiment in his speech in the Reichstag on June 5 when he said: 'This victory, too, shall not make us vainglorious. We know that England is not subdued or conquered by this battle.'"

"By the side of the battle of the Skagerrak the other events in the second year of the war, navally speaking, pale into insignificance. In the first year the activity of German submarines was a great achievement. In the second year their activity was sharply circumscribed, but nevertheless their successes in war upon commerce were considerable in comparison with those of the first year.

"On the other hand, the destruction of warships by submarines occurred but seldom. The U-27 destroyed an English protected cruiser in the North Sea on August 10, 1915. Another of the same class, the French armored cruiser Amiral Charrier in the eastern Mediterranean on February 8, 1916. A number of minor war vessels were also sunk.

"English submarines did some damage to German commerce in the Baltic and succeeded in torpedoing several of our warships, like the armored cruiser Prince Adalbert, October 23; Undine, November 7, and Bremen, December 17.

"Special attention is merited by the bold flights of our marine aircraft and their important scout work in the North Sea and Baltic. Attacks were